

VALE

ANDREW "NICKY" BARR

1915-2006

Andrew "Nicky" Barr MC, DFC and Bar, OBE played Australian Rules for school in Melbourne before changing to Rugby



Union as a member of the Melbourne Powerhouse Club.

Barr played for Victoria from 1936-1939 and went on to be selected to represent the Wallabies in 1939 for the International Rugby World Tour, as a hooker even though most of his rugby career was played at flanker. However, after arriving in London the tour was cancelled due to war breaking out in Europe.

He returned to Australia and joined the RAAF to become a fighter pilot. He was sent to North Africa and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader, fighting against Rommel's famed Afrika Corp. In

just 12 months he shot down more than 12 enemy planes.

Barr himself was shot down on three occasions including being seriously injured on the third, then captured and taken to Italy as a hospitalised prisoner of war. He escaped four times – once from a moving train. On the fourth escape he successfully evaded recapture and, with a group of special operation commandoes, operated behind enemy lines and helped fellow prisoners of war to escape.

At the end of the war he was still only 27 years of age, but his war injuries put an end to his rugby career.

KENNETH HOWARD KEARNEY

1924-2006

Ken "Killer" Kearney was an indestructible hooker who played for Australia in both codes during a career that lasted 30 seasons and began in Parramatta before World War II.

After representing Combined Services in Rugby Union during World War II, during which he served in the RAAF, Kearney was selected for New South Wales in 1946 and then Australia the following year.

He made his Test debut against the All Blacks in 1947 and went on to win selection on the Wallabies 1947-48 tour of Great Britain and France, a tour in which the Wallabies' line was never crossed in a Test match.

At the end of the Wallabies 1947-48 Spring Tour, Kearney began an illustrious rugby league career that spanned the St George, Parramatta and Cronulla clubs.



HERB SAMUEL BARKER

1929-2006

Herb Barker played rugby league at Bourke St. Public School



before being introduced to rugby and a wide variety of sports.

In 1952 he made his first grade appearance with Randwick and his fast and elusive running at centre led to his selection for the NSW and Australian sides. In the same year he made his debut for both the Waratahs and the Wallabies in a series of spectacular matches against the popular visiting Fijian team.

He played his eighth and final Test against Fiji in 1954, kicking six goals in the two-Test series. Injury prevented him from joining

the 1955 tour to New Zealand and the 1956 Tests against the Springboks. In 1957 he moved to the St George Club and ended his career in 1959 after a string of injuries took their toll.

A multi-talented sportsman, Barker also played basketball for NSW from 1946-1950 and represented Australia in the hammer throw at the 1950 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, where he won the bronze medal. In 1956 he won the Australian hammer throw championship.